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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims (strikethrough and double brackets [[]] indicating deletion and <u>underline</u> indicating insertion) as follows:

- 1. (Previously Presented) A foot engaging member for use with a climbing tree stand assembly including a platform and a support member attached to the platform, comprising:
 - a mounting portion for attachment to the climbing tree stand assembly; and
- a rigid tail portion having a curved elongate body and extending away from the mounting portion.
- 2. (Original) The foot engaging member of Claim 1, wherein the mounting portion is configured to be attached to the support member of the climbing tree stand assembly.
- 3. (Original) The foot engaging member of Claim 2, wherein the tail portion is configured to extend generally downwardly toward the platform of the tree stand assembly.
- 4. (Cancelled)
- 5. (Currently Amended) The foot engaging member of Claim [[4]]1, wherein the foot engaging member comprises substantially rigid molded plastic.
- 6. (Original) The foot engaging member of Claim 1, wherein the mounting portion is configured to secure the foot engaging member to either the support member or to the platform.

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- 7. (Original) The foot engaging member of Claim 6, wherein the mounting portion is secured to the support member with a fastener.
- (Previously Presented) A climbing tree stand assembly comprising:
 a platform;
 - a pair of support arms attached to the platform; and
- a pair of rigid footholds attached to the platform or the support arms and extending generally over the platform.
- 9. (Previously Presented) The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 8, wherein the pair of footholds each comprise a curved elongate body portion and a clamping portion for attaching to either the platform or the support arms.
- 10. (Original) The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 9, wherein clamping portions are attached to the support arms.
- 11. (Previously Presented) The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 9, wherein the curved elongate body portions extend generally over the platform.
- 12. (Cancelled)
- 13. (Currently Amended) The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim [[12]]11, wherein the footholds each comprise a <u>substantially rigid</u> molded plastic body.

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14. (Previously Presented) In a climbing tree stand including a platform and a pair of support arms attached to the platform, the climbing tree stand for use by a user, the improvement therein comprising:

a pair of rigid foothold devices attached to the platform or the support arms.

- 15. (Original) The improvement of Claim 14 wherein the rigid foothold devices extend generally between the support arms and the platform.
- 16. (Original) The improvement of Claim 14 wherein the rigid foothold devices are attached to the support arms and extend toward the platform.
- 17. (Original) The improvement of Claim 14 wherein the rigid foothold devices comprise a curved elongate body portion and an attachment portion for attaching to either the platform or the support arms.
- 18. (Cancelled)
- 19. (Original) The improvement of Claim 17 wherein the rigid foothold devices comprise a molded plastic body.
- 20. (Previously Presented) The improvement of Claim 17 wherein the attachment portion of the rigid foothold devices comprises a yoke for fastening to one of the support arms.